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## LOCAL DRUG SUPPLIER SENTENCED TO OVER 16 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON

Defendant Supplied Drug Dealers in Del Paso Heights, Oak Park, Meadowview and Dos Rios Public Housing Complex in Downtown Sacramento

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that EDDIE HOUSTON, JR., 36, of Sacramento was sentenced today by United States District Judge Frank C. Damrell, Jr. to 200 months (16 and ½ years) in federal prison. In addition, the defendant will be on supervised release for ten additional years following his release from prison.

This case is the product of an investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration assisted by the Sacramento Police Department.

The defendant pleaded guilty to a three-part conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine base (crack cocaine), to possess with intent to distribute cocaine (powder cocaine), and to manufacture cocaine base (crack cocaine) on March 3, 2008.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Anne Pings, who prosecuted the case, the evidence at trial would have included the testimony of witnesses that EDDIE HOUSTON, JR., was the supplier of large quantities of crack cocaine to numerous local drug dealers who were reselling the crack cocaine to street-level dealers and users in the Del Paso Heights, Meadowview, and Oak Park neighborhoods, as well as inside the Dos Rios public housing complex in downtown Sacramento.

The defendant acknowledged in his guilty plea that he was utilizing a residence in the 3000 block of Cactus Way, Sacramento, to cook powder cocaine into crack cocaine, to store the powder and crack cocaine, and to conduct sales of crack cocaine. Agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration and officers of the Sacramento Police Department executed a search warrant at the residence on March 8, 2007. The house was outfitted with a video camera surveillance system. The agents recovered approximately seven pounds of crack cocaine, two pounds of powder cocaine, the cooking instruments and ingredients used to make crack cocaine, digital scales, and an electronic money counting machine. They also recovered \$12,000 in cash from HOUSTON's person when he was stopped a few blocks away in a Jaguar. The Drug Enforcement Administration previously reported that Eddie Houston was a validated member of the "Bloods" and that the crack cocaine seized was worth a quarter of a million dollars. In addition, the Drug Enforcement Administration reported that the seizure at HOUSTON's residence was the largest crack cocaine seizure by the Drug Enforcement Administration in the Sacramento region.

Judge Damrell, in sentencing the defendant, said that Mr. Houston had sold a lot of crack cocaine causing a lot of pain and suffering for a lot of families, stating, "For a big-time player, you deserve a big-time sentence."